

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4229

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4226

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, VS, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH AID PLANS FOR INDO-CHINA

REF: A) SAIGON 10394

B) THE HAGUE 1949

C) THE HAGUE 2806

D) THE HAGUE 2890

1. INFORMATION SERVICE OF DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
DIVISION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY (MINISTER PRONK'S
PORTFOLIO) HAS ISSUED TWO PRESS RELEASES ON INDO-
CHINA ASSISTANCE. AS DESCRIBED IN RELEASES, ASSISTANCE
CLOSELY PARALLELS INFO PROVIDED BY VAN ROIJEN (REF. A) I.E.
15 MILLION GUILDERS (US \$5,572,500) IN BILATERAL
AID TO NORTH VIETNAM (HAGUE REFTELS); 10 MILLION
GUILDERS (US \$3,715,000) FOR MULTILATERAL AID TO
SOUTH VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA, OF WHICH 2 MILLION
GUILDERS TO BE CHanneled THROUGH UNICEF AND 8 MILLION
GUILDERS THROUGH THE MEKONG COMMISSION FOR ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS IN MEKONG DELTA; AND 5 MILLION GUILDERS
(US \$1,857,500) FOR "PRIVATE" ORGANIZATIONS IN SOUTH
VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA.

2. LATTER AMOUNT DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS: ONE MILLION
GUILDERS (US \$371,500) FOR DUTCH MEDICAL COMMITTEE FOR
VIETNAM FOR A HOSPITAL PROJECT AT BINH VIEN HA-LAN.

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ONE MILLION GUILDERS THROUGH RED CROSS

FOR ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY THROUGHOUT INDO-CHINA; 500,000 GUILDERS (US \$185,750) TO WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES FUND FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION; 500,000 GUILDERS TO ASIAN CHRISTIAN SERVICE; 500,000 GUILDERS TO THE UNIFIED BUDDHIST CONGREGATION; 500,000 GUILDERS TO BUDDHIST CHURCH IN S.E. ASIA (PRESS RELEASE STATES "THROUGH MEDIATION OF VIETNAMESE PEACE DELEGATION IN PARIS, UNIFIED BUDDHIST CHURCH WOULD CARRY OUT FARM PROJECTS DESIGNED BENEFIT SMALL FARMERS") 500,000 GUILDERS TO COMMITTEE FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF VIET NAM WHICH DESCRIBED AS DEVOTED TO RECEPTION OF THOUSANDS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA; AND 500,000 GUILDERS TO THE "BROAD VIETNAM MOVEMENT HOLLAND" (200,000 FOR FILM EQUIPMENT FOR EDUCATION IN PRG CONTROLLED AREAS OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND 300,000 FOR "HUMANITARIAN HELP" TO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM).

3. PRONK IS TO VERY LARGE EXTENT FREE AGENT IN RUNNING HIS PART OF MINISTRY. WITHOUT QUESTION, HE IS HIS OWN MAN, DOES HIS OWN THINKING, AND HAS A LARGE CONSTITUENCY IN THE DUTCH RADICAL LEFT. WE JUDGE THAT HE IS NOT REPEAT NOT SUBJECT TO VERY CLOSE POLICY DIRECTION FROM FONMIN VAN DER STOEL ON DETAILED APPLICATION OF FOREIGN AID. FURTHERMORE, ON QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO INDO-CHINA, PRONK PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 PROBABLY HAS WIDE (THOUGH FAR FROM UNANIMOUS) SUPPORT IN GOVERNMENT AND AMONG DUTCH PUBLIC.

4. EMBASSY NOT SANGUINE ABOUT PERSUADING GON CHANGE ANY ASPECTS OF PROGRAM ALREADY ANNOUNCED (WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION, BUT HAVE HEARD THAT NEW BUDGET MAY PROVIDE EVEN MORE MONEY FOR DRV/PRG ASSISTANCE). NEVERTHELESS, WE WILL RAISE MATTER AT WORKING LEVEL AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. WE PROPOSE LEAVE COPY OF SAIGON'S A-296 (MENTIONED IN SAIGON REFTEL) WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. VAN ROIJEN WILL BE PROTECTED FULLY.
TANGUY

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